Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

# Message Text

PAGE 01 PARIS 23472 051942Z

67
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
---------- 013674
O R 051803Z SEP 73 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIAE 2969
INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 23472

EXDIS

E.O. GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CB, CH, FR.
SUBJECT: SONN SAN'S POSSIBLE VIEW OF PRC ROLE IN CAMBODIAN SETTLEMENT.

REF: PHNOM PENH 7788

DEPT PASS USLO PEKING

1. SONN SAN AT HIS INITIATIVE SAW EMBOFF SEPT 4. HE WAS VISIBLY DISTRESSED AT WHAT HE CONSIDERED A FURTHER DETERIORATION IN KHMER MORALE. HE CONTINUED TO CONSIDER THAT LON NOL HAD TO LEAVE CAMBODIA BEFORE THERE COULD BE IMPROVEMENT IN THE MILITARY ORGANIZATION (AND HENCE IN THE MILITARY SITUATION), PROGRESS ON THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SCENE AND BETTER PROSPECTS FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE OTHER SIDE.

2. SONN SAN SAID THAT THE HAD TOLD THE FRENCH, PARTICULARLY QUAI OFFICIALS, THAT POMPIDOU'S TRIP TO PEKING PROVIDED THE FRENCH WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT THE VIEW THAT A RESOLUTION OF THE CAMBODIAN PROBLEM NOW WOULD SERV PRC INTERESTS IN THAT IT WOULD PROBABLY PROVIDE A ROLE, AT LEAST TEMPORARILY, FOR SIHANOUK, AND WOULD ALSO PERMIT NATIONALISTS (INCLUDING THOSE WITHIN THE KHMER COMMUNIST MOVEMENT) CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARIS 23472 051942Z

TO EXERCISE LEADERSHIP IN CAMBODIA. CONTINUATION OF THE WAR WOULD RESULT IN INCREASING DRV CONTROL OVER CAMBODIA AS A WHOLE AND COMPLETE DRV DOMINATION OF CERTAIN BORDER AREAS, AN EXCLUSINVE ROLE WHICH WOULD

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

NOT BE IN CHINA'S INTEREST. SONN SAN SAID ALSO THAT
DR. KISSINGER'S VISIT TO PEKING WOULD SIMILARLY
PROVIDE AN OCCASION TO ATTEMPT TO ENLIST PRC SUPPORT
FOR A REASONABLE SETTLEMENT IN CAMBODIA. SONN SAN
THOUGHT THAT IN LIGHT OF THE SERIOUS WARNING OF
RENEWED COMMUNIST MILITARY EFFORTS IN THE COMING
DRY SEASON, ONLY A FEW MONTHS WERE LEFT TO TRY TO
TURN THE SITUATION IN THE DIRECTION OF NEGOTIATIONS
AND A POLITICAL SOLUTION.

3. I WOULD APPRECITE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS SOONEST
CONCERNING LINE I SHOULD TAKE WITH FOREIGN MINISTER JOBERT
WHEN I MEET HIM SEPTEMBER 7, SHOULD HE
ASK OUR VIEW OF THE PRC ROLE IN ARRIVING
AT A SETTLEMNT FOR CAMBODIA. GDS
IRWIN

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED USLO PEKING.

CONFIDENTIAL

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